

TABOO TATTOO



SHINJIRO

06





ANDER
SAYINQUE'S
DIFFERENT

THE
WOLF
WAS
LARGER
AND
FASTER



THE
WOLF



ONE
BENT
APART





#27 ADVANCE

TABOO TATTOO

TABOO TATTOO

06

CONTENTS

#27 ADVANCE 001

#28 INTERFACE 025

#29 NOPE 047

#30 THE WEAK 071

#31 FUTURE 097

#32 POWER 131

#33 CONTRADICTION 151

#XX BONUS STORY 185

AFTERWORD 194





I'LL
THINK
ABOUT IT
LATER.





SHE'S GOT AN
ABNORMAL
AMOUNT OF EN-
DURANCE.

MY USUAL
OPPONENTS
WOULD BE
COMPLETELY
KNOCKED OUT
BY THEM.....

TOH! SO
MY SPATIAL
OSCILLATIONS
ARE ONLY GOOD
FOR SLOWING
HER DOWN.



I'VE GOT
NOTHING
HOLDING ME
BACK THIS
TIME.





HEY
RBT?



I'M NOT
SAYING I DOUBT
YOU, BUT IF YOU'RE
NOT ACTING AS A
SOLDIER, THEN I
JUST DON'T
UNDERSTAND
IT.

WHY ARE YOU
WILLING TO RISK
YOUR LIFE TO
LEARN MORE
ABOUT THE SPELL
CRISTS?



SO I
PROM-
ISED
YOU...

...I'D
WIPE THE
CRISTS
OFF THE
FACE OF
THE
EARTH.



A
GIRL...

BY
FURTHERING
SUFFERING
BECAUSE
OF THE
SPELL
CRISTS.



YOU'RE
SO STRONG.

I SAY
TO DO
ANYTHING
FOR HIS
HIGHNESS,
BUT WHEN
POSH COMES
TO SHOW,
I BACK
DOWN.

I
COULD
NEVER
DO
THIS...



I
SEE

YOU'RE ALSO
FIGHTING FOR
SOMEONE YOU
CARE ABOUT.



BUT EACH
TIME, I GOT TOO
SCARED AND
COULDN'T EVEN
GET NEAR IT.

JUST LIKE
THAT OTHER
NIGHT.

THAT WASN'T
THE FIRST TIME I
TRIED INFILTRATING
SANGARA.



BUT IF I
FIND A WAY
TO DESTROY
THE SPELL
CREATING IT,
IT WON'T NOT
DOE WELL
FOR YOUR
MASTER.



YOU'RE
NOT WEAK.

YOU'RE
MOVING
FORWARD.



...A
GUESS
NO.

BUT THAT
WAS THE
FIRST TIME
YOU GOT
CLOSE
ENOUGH
FOR
GANDHAR
TO ATTACK,
RIGHT?

OTHERWISE,
YOU'D
PROBABLY
HAVE DIED
BEFORE
MEETING ME.



BUT
THERE'S SOME-
THING ELSE...

IT'S TRUE OUR
COUNTRY BEGAN
RESEARCHING
SPELL CRESTS AT
HIS HIGHNESS'S
INSTRUCTION, BUT HE
DIDN'T SEEM THAT
INSISTENT ABOUT
THEM NOW.

I
WON-
DER
ABOUT
THAT.



THAT'S
CONVULSED
...

YOU'RE
TALKING ABOUT
THE KING AND THE
PRINCESS, RIGHT?

...BUT YOU
HAD TO MAKE
THEM SUFFER
OR ELSE THEY'D
BE KILLED, WHAT
WOULD YOU DO?



HEY, IF YOU HAD
SOMEONE YOU
CARED ABOUT,
WHD YOU DON'T
WANT TO
SUFFER...



HE FEELS
INDEBTED TO
THE PRINCESS.

AND HE
LOVES
HER.

AND
THAT'S THE
SOURCE OF HIS
HIGHNESS'S
PAIN.



EVEN
THOUGH SHE'S
NOT HIS BIO-
LOGICAL DAUGH-
TER.

HIS
HIGHNESS ISN'T
VERY GOOD AT
EXPRESSING
HIMSELF, BUT HE
REALLY CARES
ABOUT THE
PRINCESS.

I'VE BEEN
BY HIS
SIDE LONG
ENOUGH TO
KNOW.

YEAH
...



AS LONG AS
YOU'RE ALIVE,
YOU'LL
ALWAYS HAVE
A FUTURE.

THOUGH
THERE'S
NO TELLING
IF IT'LL BE
ROSY OR
BLEAK.



WELL,
FOR NOW,
SAGOLNIT WE
BOTH GET
STRONGER TO
KEEP THEM
ALIVE?



...HAVE A
FUTURE.

BUT YOU'LL
STILL...



YOU
ACTED LIKE
YOU WERE
CARRYING
A CROSS,
BUT...

SAGNIT,
THAT'S
SISER
SAY
THAT
DONE.

...FOR
AS LONG
AS YOU
REMAIN
ALIVE.





THAT'S SOME
GLARE FOR
SOMEONE
PRETENDING
TO BE
BLIND.

HAH

HAH

HAH

HAH





AH-HA,
JUST AS I
THOUGHT.



THESE
ARE YOUR
TRIGGERS.



I'D BEEN
WAITING
FOR YOUR
DRIVE TO
CUT OFF.



I'M
BENDING
THE RULES
A LITTLE.
BUT THIS IS
THE ONLY WAY
I CAN WIN!









**NOW
YOU'RE
JUST A
NAUGHTY
LITTLE
BRAT.**





TAB TATH

T
A
B
O
T
A
T
O



#28 INTERFACE

T A B O O T A T T O O



YOUR
ANSWERS
...?



SHE
REALLY
IS THE
SPITTING
IMAGE OF THE
PRINCESS
...



OH
RIGHT,

VARMA,
GIVE
ME A
LIGHT
HERE.

WE'RE
GOING
SNEAK IN
THROUGH
THE
ROUTE WE
PLANNED.



IT'D BE
POINTLESS
TRYING TO
ASK HER
DIRECTLY.

YEAH.....
AND WE'LL
PROBABLY
LEARN WHY
IF WE CAN
MANAGE TO
GET INTO
SAMBARA.



WATCH
CLOSELY
WHEN I
USE MY
POWER.



MY ABILITY
CAN ONLY
REPRODUCE
A PAST
THAT I'VE
WITNESSED
MYSELF.

.....
JUST
TO BE
SAFE,
I'LL
SAY
THIS
AGAIN.



IL-GAN,
HOW CAN
YOU KEEP A
STRAIGHT
FACE DURING
SUCH
TERRIBLE
THINGS?

I'LL
KILL
THOSE
.....
WHO
CARE--
THIS
WAY--
.....
I'LL
KILL



OH COMBO-
BUST

I'M COM-
BUST

HEY!
LET ME
COUNTER-
ATTACK

AH!

NO WAY!
THEY
LAUNCHED
A COMBO
ATTACK
FROM
THERE?!



KO!!

THAT'S TO
BEHOLDEN

PRO-
GRESS,
IS SOME-
THING THE
ART-
TORY

7

HOW
ABOUT THE
OUTFIT?

AAH!

THAT'S
TOO COM-
BUST



HE'S ABOUT TO
BE BUSTED

HEY,
SEND
CAL TO
SAM-
SARA

YEA,
ASAP!

IT'S
NIGHTTIME,
SO SHE
SHOULD BE
AWAKE.

SINCE MY
LINK TO
HER ISN'T
PERFECT, I
CAN'T SAY
FOR SURE,
THOUGH...

WHAT
DO YOU
SAY,
MOM?

I
THINK
SAMSARA
MAY
HAVE
BEEN
DEFEATED
BY
SOME-
ONE.











WHAT
IS IT?

WELL
MOM-
MOM.



WHAT
DO WE
DO??
THEY
MUST
KNOW
WE'RE
HERE!



SOME-
BODY'S
ON THE
OTHER
SIDE
OF THIS
WALL.

ARE YOU
KIDDING
ME?!



OH MY.
DO WE HAVE
VISITORS?







DON'T
BE
RUDE,
YOU
TWO.

VIS-
ITORS.

THEY'RE
PROBABLY
HIS
HIGHNESS'S
DOGS.



WHO
ARE
THEY?

I
DON'T
RECOGN-
IZE
THESE
FACES.

AND
THEY'RE
NOT
NEW
HARDS.



IF YOU
TALK
THAT
WAY,
I'LL KILL
YOU.

IT
SEEMS
LIKE

DON'T
ACT
LIKE
YOU'RE
SOME
KIND
OF
HEROES
JUST
SO
YOU
CAN
GO
SNOOPING
AROUND
ON
YOUR
OWN.

WE'LL
SAID.

IT'S
ALL
RIGHT.
WE'RE
JUST
PLAYING
GAMES.

HEY, BO.
IT
LOOKS
LIKE
OUR
COVER'S
COM-
PLETELY
BLOWN.

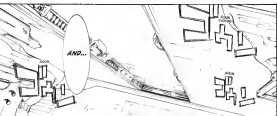


BUT
THE
RESEARCHERS
ARE
ALWAYS
STATIONED
IN
THE
LAB
ABOVE,
SO
I
CAN'T
SHOW
YOU
THAT
AREA.

WHENEVER
RESEARCHERS
ARE
HERE, SOME
ONE
MUST
BE
WATCHING
THEM.

WE
SHOULD
"CITY"
US.

FOLLOW
ME, I'LL
SHOW
YOU
AROUND.





...OUR
ENTIRE
WORLD.



WHAT
IS
THIS
...??

INCLUDING
SARESHA
OUTSIDE
TOO.

SO YOU'RE
TRYING
CLONES...
HUH.



FUNDAMENTALLY,
WE'RE NEARLY THE
SAME, BUT SINCE
WE WERE CREATED
BY TESTING OUT
A VARIETY OF
PATTERNS, WE ALL
HAVE GENETIC
DIFFERENCES.

WE HAVE
DEFINITE
DIFFERENCES
AMONG US.

WE'RE THE
RESULTS OF
TESTING.

Non
Non♪

TECH-
NICALLY
SPEAK-
ING, NO.



DEFECTS
LIKE US CAN
ONLY LIVE
INSIDE ITS
RANGE.

ARISA WAS A
SUCCESSFUL
PRODUCT
AND CAN GO
OUTSIDE AS
OUR REPRESENTATIVE.
THAT'S ALL.

AROUND THE
PERIPHERY OF
SANGARA,
THERE'S A
MASSIVE
INSTRUMENT
THAT
GENERATES A
UNIQUE FORCE
FIELD THAT
INTERFERES
WITH SPELL
CRESTS.



BUT GIVEN
THAT SHE HAS
A LOT OF
MALFUNCTIONS
WHEN IT
COMES TO
INTERFACING,
SHE'S A
DEFECT TOO.

THE REASON
WHY AS—
I MEAN
SANGARA, CAN
GO OUTSIDE
IS BECAUSE
SHE'S ALSO A
SUCCESSFUL
PRODUCT.

OH.



BUT
WHO
MADE
YOU
AND
WHY
IT

PRODUCTS...



IT WAS
ABOUT
THIRTY-
FIVE
YEARS
AGO
THAT THE
RUINS
OF THE
KINGDOM
WERE
DISCOVERED.

WHEN
HIS HIGHNESS
MANAGED TO DECODE
THE INSCRIPTIONS
AND REALIZED THE
POTENTIAL OF THE
SPELL CRESTS,
HE USED THE
CONTRAPTIONS
IN THE RUINS TO
TRY AND REWRITE
THE WORLD TO
SUIT HIM.



HIS
HIGHNESS.

THE
KING
OF
THIS
LAND



OF COURSE, THERE ARE PLENTY OF GUYS LIKE THAT IN THE U.S. TOO.

SOUNDS LIKE A SUREFIRE WAY TO THEM.

THAT'S BACK WHEN HE WAS TRYING TO EXPAND THE KINGDOM'S TERRITORY BY USING MILITARY FORCE TO ANNEX NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.



I CAN IMAGINE THAT WITH HOW HIS HIGHNESS WAS BACK THEN...

HE'D JUST ASCENDED TO THE THRONE AND HAS A LOT MORE AMBITIOUS TASKS HE IS NOW.



NO.

IN TRUTH, HE DID, BUT IT WAS SOMEWHERE OUT OF REACH.

BUT UNFORTUNATELY, HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY INTERFACE THROUGH WHICH TO CONTROL THE RULING.



THAT'S WHEN HIS HIGHNESS GOT IT IN HIS HEAD TO CREATE AN INTERFACE THAT CAN BE CONTROLLED BY HUMANS.

RIGHT!



THE SPELL CANT JOURNALS, RIGHT?



INTER-
FACES
IN THE
FORM
OF AN-
IMAS.



IN
OTHER
WORDS, IF
YOU CAN
PROPERLY
ADJUST A
PERSON'S
GENES, YOU
CAN CREATE
THE IDEAL
SOUL FORM...
HERE HIS
THOUGHTS
ON THE
SUBJECT.

SOULS
EXIST IN THE
HIGHER DIMEN-
SIONAL SPACE
AND ARE GIVEN
SHAPE THROUGH
THE CEREBRUM'S
EVOLUTIONARY
PROCESS AS
THEY INTERACT
WITH ONE
ANOTHER.

IT'S A
PERSON'S
SOUL
ALONE
THAT
ACTIVATES
A SPELL
CREAT, RIGHT?

SO HE
FIGURED IF
HE COULD
TAMPER WITH
THAT SOUL'S
FORM, HE
COULD MAKE
SOMETHING
OF IT.

AND
THAT'S
HOW WE
WERE
BORN.



THAT'S THE
ARYABHATA
PLAN.....



AFTER ALL,
WE LIVE IN AN
ENVIRONMENT
WHERE OUR
CONTACT WITH
HUMANS IS
LIMITED.

BECAUSE I
DON'T HATE
HUMANS AS
MUCH AS ARM
DOES.....
I GUESS?



WHY
ARE YOU
TELLING
US ALL
THIS ?

YOU KNOW
WE'RE THE
PRINCESS'S
ENEMIES.



PLUS, WE
DON'T HAVE
ANY TIME.

THAT'S A
RATHER
BRIEF
ANSWER



PART OF ME
FEELS THAT
WAY. I'LL
ADMIT THAT
MUCH.

IS
THAT
WHAT
YOU'RE
TRYING
TO SAY?

SO IN
OTHER
WORDS,
YOU
WANT
US TO
PUT A
STOP
TO ARM.



I AM BOTH
KIJURI AND A
PART OF ARM
AT THE SAME
TIME.

AS IS
EVERY-
ONE
ELSE
HERE.

THAT'S WHY
OUR SENSE
OF SELF IS
WAVE AT BEST,
AND OUR THOUGHTS
AND EXPERIENCES
SUBCONSCIOUSLY
CROSS THE PHYSICAL
BOUNDARIES TO
INFLUENCE ONE
ANOTHER.

WE'RE
PARTIALLY
FUSED.

ALL
OF US
SISTERS
ARE
LINKED
ON A SPIRITUAL
LEVEL WITH
ARM.





...
HMPH.

YOU'RE TOO
INDIFFERENT
FOR ME TO BE
ABLE TO READ
YOUR TRUE
INTENTIONS,
BUT I DON'T
FEEL ANY TRUE
MALICE FROM
YOU.

STOP IT.
YOU'RE NOT
LIKE THOSE
TWO.









BUT
IT'S A
FACT
THAT
CAL-
SAN IS
HEADED
THIS
WAY.

THIS IS
WEIRD...

SENDING
ME OUT
FOR
WORK
AT THIS
HOUR...

I WAS
HAVING
SUCH
A NICE
SLEEP
TOO...

YOU GUYS
DON'T HAVE
MUCH TIME
LEFT.

THEY
SPEND ALL
THEIR TIME IN
THE PRINCESS'S
QUARTERS
DRESSED SO
SCANDALOUSLY
AND CONDUCTING
THEMSELVES
SO SLUGGISHLY.
IT'S LIKE THEY
FORGET THEY'RE
LADIES-IN-
WAITING.

OF
COURSE,
THE
PRINCESS
IS ALSO
RESPONSIBLE
FOR
ALLOWING
THEM TO
CARRY ON
LIKE THAT.

WAS
DO THEY
THINK
THEY
ARE
JUST

TA
BUTTA
BUTTA

OF
ALL
THE
--

BY
THE
WAY

IT MUST
BE WITH
HER AND
TRAINING
HE LIKE
THIS ON
PURPOSE.

ON THE
SECOND-
MORNING

AND THEN
THERE'S
THOSE
LADIES-IN-
WAITING.

WAYSSO LAME





**I'M
NOT
GAY!**



**WHA
—!**

GUEERS!!

**CALL
THERE
ARE A
COUPLE
OF MAN-
LOVERS
HERE!**

**THEY
LOOK AND
ACT LIKE
NANCY
BOYS!
HELP US!**

**THEY'RE
HOT-
BLOODED
HOMO-
SEXUALS!**

**THE
DUDE IN
THE SUN-
GLASSES
IS
TOTALLY
GAY!**



AH!



**I CAN'T
BELIEVE
I'D
DO
THAT.**

**Ho
Ho
Ho
Ho!**

**O-OH,
YOU'RE
JUST
US
LITTLE
SISTERS!**



**.....
KUZURI-
SARA, IS
SOMEBODY
THERE WITH
YOU?**



YOU SHOULD GET OUT OF HERE QUICKLY.

TIME'S UP.



Ufu fu fu fu fu.



TCH

Now Downloading...



cancel



I WAS HOPING I COULD TALK WITH YOU SOME MORE, BUT OH WELL.



THEY WILL BE ON US IN NO TIME!

HEUREY, BUT

IT LOOKS LIKE GAIL'S ACTIVATED THE SECURITY WITHIN SANSARA.



I GOT ALL THE IMPORTANT FILES I NEED.

I SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING WITH THESE.



UNTIL I CAN
LEAVE HERE,
I CAN'T DO
ANYTHING.

I'M GLAD
YOU GAVE.



MY
HOPE
IS ONE
OF THE
OPTIONS
ARYA
HOLDS
IN HER
HEART
TOO.

DON'T
FORGET.



YEAH.

YOU'RE
RIGHT.





I SWEAR
I'LL HOLD
ON TO
YOUR HOPE.



DID YOU
SEE ANY
SUSPICIOUS
CHARACTERS
IN HERE?

KUJURI-
SAMA!



I
HAVEN'T
SEEN
ANYBODY
SUSPI-
CIOUS-
LOOKING.
HAVE
YOU?

WHO
KNOWS?



1000
 1000
 1000



TO
ALWAYS
WORRIED
THIS
DAY
WOULD
COME.





YOU
WON'T
HAVE
TIME
TO
DO
THE
GOLD

GET
DOWN,
VARMA!!





**DAMN
!!!!!!
!!**



**DAMN
IT!**



THERE'S
AN
INTRUDER
WITHIN
SAM-SARA.

THE
TARGET
IS MOVING
UNDER-
GROUND
TOWARD
THE
CASTLE.

SUR-
ROUND
HIM AT
ONCE.



WOULD
FEEL
IT AT
SOME
THING,
BUT.....

BELOW
GROUND...
THEIR
PRESENCE
IS LEADING
OUT OF
RANGE.



WAKE
UP,
YOU
FOOL!

HEY,
YARMA!
DON'T GO
FALLING
ASLEEP
ON
ME AT A
TIME LIKE
THIS!



V
A
A
M



BUT WE'RE
STILL GIRLS,
YOU KNOW?



UNTIL
ARIA GAINED
DOWN OVER
THIS PLACE, WE
SISTERS WERE
NEVER TREATED
AS HUMANS.

WE WERE
THE VERY
DEFINITION
OF EX-
PERIMENT
SAMPLES.
PURE AND
SIMPLE.





ARYA
KILLED
HIM
LATER,
THOUGH.



.....



THERE
WAS A
VILE MAN
ON THE
STAFF
WHO
ABUSED
US.



TO DENY
HUMANITY
IS TO DENY
OUR VERY
EXISTENCE.

THAT'S
WHY I DON'T
APPROVE OF
WHAT ARYA
IS DOING.

OF
COURSE,
WE
WERE
UPSET, BUT...

...THANKS
TO MY
SISTERS I
GOT BACK
ON MY
FEET.

AND I
WASNT
THE ONLY
ONE WHO
WAS
TREATED
CRUELLY.



**I LOVE MY
SISTERS.**

SO YOU
BELIEVE
MAN IS
INHER-
ENTLY
GOOD.

THAT'S
ALL.

I
WOULDN'T
DO THAT
HIS.



TOE

REVENGE
IS JUST A
MEANS TO
AN END.



ISN'T
THE PRINCESS
ONLY WANTING
TO EXACT
REVENGE ON
HIS HIGHNESS
FOR CREATING
THE ROOT OF
ALL YOUR
MISERY?

SAY.....
WHAT DO YOU
EVEN
MEAN BY
DENYING
HUMAN-
ITY?



WH...
WHY
WOULD
SHE
GO SO
FAR?



SISTER
ARMY'S
GOING TO
USE THE
POWER OF
THE SPELL
CRESTS TO
COMPLETELY
REMAKE THIS
WORLD AND
ALL THE
PEOPLE IN IT



DO YOU
HAVE ANY
IDEA WHAT
HE DID TO
CREATE
US?

IT'S
ALL THE
FAULT
OF THAT
NASTY
OLD
MAN!





.....
**VARMA'S
DEAD.**

VARMA
and

Varma

...
**BROUGHT
ALL THIS
UPON
YOUR-
SELF!!**

YOU
.....

**ARE
YOU
HAPPY
NOW?!**



TABE TATHO

T
A
B
O
T
A
T
O



...THE
SECRET
BEHIND
OUR
BIRTH.

WHEN ARIS
BECAME A
PRINCESS
AND GAINED
HER
FREEDOM,
SHE
LEARNED...



IN
CREATING THE
INTERFACES,
THE KING TURNED
HIS ATTENTION
TO THE TANI AS
THE CLOSEST
THINGS TO
BIOLOGICAL
SPELL
CRESTS.



SHE
LEARNED THAT
THE PEOPLE
WHO CREATED
THE SPELL
CRESTS FROM
THE DECORED
INSCRIPTIONS
IN THE
PLAINS WERE
FROM THE
KINGDOM.

THEIR
ANCESTORS
WERE A SMALL
TRIBE CALLED
THE TANI THAT
LIVED IN THE
MOUNTAINS TO
THE NORTH.



AND ON A
MASSIVE
SCALE!!

THAT'S
RIGHT!
HUMAN
EXPERI-
MENTS!



AT
THAT OLD
SEEDERS
COMMAND,
ALL THE
TAVANS
WERE
FORCED
TO COME
HERE.

THEY
WERE
MADE
INTO TEST
SUBJECTS
UNTIL
THEY
LOST
THEIR
MINDS.

THEY WERE
STRAPPED
INTO
EXPERIMENTAL
EQUIPMENT,
AND THEIR
HEADS AND
STOMACHS
WERE CUT
OPEN—ALL
WHILE THEY
WERE STILL
ALIVE.

...AND USED
TO ARTIFICIALLY
INSEMINATE
YOUNG GIRLS
WHO INCUBATED
AND GAVE
BIRTH TO THE
CHILDREN!

SPERM
SAMPLES
WERE
COLLECTED
FROM THE
MEN...



WHEN I WAS
STILL A CHILD,
THE LAST MEMBER
OF THE TAVI DIED.



**ARYA
COULDN'T
STOMACH
THE THOUGHT
THAT SHE WAS
RELATED TO
BRUTES
CAPABLE
OF DOING
SOMETHING
SO INHUMAN!**



**THEY
WIPE
OUT THE
ENTIRE
TRIBE,
LEAVING
ONLY ME
AND MY
SISTERS.**

**ALL
SO THEY
COULD
CREATE
THE TOOL
KNOWN
AS ARRA.**

**THREE
THOUSAND
PEOPLE!**

**AND NOT ONE
SURVIVOR!**



I CAN'T
BELIEVE
SHE'D EVEN
KILL VARMA
WITHOUT ANY
HESITATION...

IT MUST
MEAN THAT
ARYA'S GROWN
POWERFUL
ENOUGH THAT
SHE DOESN'T
EVEN FEAR ME
ANYMORE.....





BUT
IT'S THAT
"HUMANITY"
TREATS
OTHERS LIKE
MERE THINGS
THAT ARYA
TRULY
LOATHES.



ARYA'S
SISTERS
HATED
HER.

HE
HEARD
THE
WHOLE
STORY.

AND EVEN
EXTRACTED
INFORMA-
TION ON
GANGRA.



WITH THAT
LINE OF THINKING,
SHE'S GOING TO
USE THE SPELL
CREATS TO
REMAKE HUMAN
AND THE WORLD
AS WE KNOW IT.

THAT CRUELTY IS
SOMETHING THAT
ALL HUMANS HIDE
IN THE DEPTHS
OF THEIR HEARTS
AS A PART OF
THEIR NATURE.

NO
MATTER
WHO
IT IS,
THAT'S
JUST
HUMAN
NATURE.

THERE'S NO
PROOF THAT
THAT INHUMAN
TREATMENT IS
SOMETHING YOU
CAN DO BUT
ARYA CAN'T.

*SHE'S
TRYING TO
BECOME A
GOD.*



THAT'S
YOUR
DUTY.

IT'S
TOO
LATE TO
MOURN
THE
PAST
NOW.

YOU...
YOU NEED
TO PUT A
STOP TO
ARYA.



.....I
RULED
THIS
COUNTRY
FOR A
LONG
TIME WITH
ABSOLUTE
JUSTICE.

I WAS
THE VERY
EPITOME
AND
DEFINITION
OF
JUSTICE..

BUT WHEN
I ALLOWED
SOMEONE TO
USURP ME, MY
JUSTICE CAME
APART AND I
BECAME A
NOBODY.





BUT
I...

...GREW
TO LOVE
HER AS A
DAUGHTER.



AS A
RESULT, ARIA
GAINED
THE TITLE
OF ROYAL
PRINCESS,
ALONG WITH
THE POWER
AND AUTHORITY
TO OVERTHROW
ME.



THE
ONLY
MISTAKE OF
MY LIFE WAS
WELCOMING
ARIA IN AS
MY OWN
DAUGHTER



I
SHOULD
HAVE
TREATED
HER LIKE
THE TOOL
THAT SHE
IS.



SHE
SHOULD
HAVE
REMAINED A
TOOL AND
NOTHING
MORE.

HAD
THINGS
GONE
THAT WAY,
I WOULD
HAVE BEEN
ABLE TO
MAINTAIN
MY SENSE
OF
JUSTICE.



SO YOU
PLAN TO
DIE...

I KNEW
IT.



VARMA GOT
INTO SAMSARA
SO THAT YOU
COULD LIVE.

I WON'T
STAND
FOR IT.



THERE'S
NOW THE
HISTORY
OF MAN-
KIND HAS
ALWAYS
GONE.

THOSE
WHO LOSE
THEIR
JUSTICE
WILL BE
PERSEC-
UTED
UNDER
A NEW
JUSTICE.

SO HE
COULD
STOP
THE
PRIN-
CESS'S
CRIMES.



YOU'RE
JUST
GOING TO
LET HIM
DIE IN
VAIN?



IT'S TOO
LATE...



**NOT
LIKE
THIS!**

**DON'T
BE
STUPID!**

**I WON'T
LET YOU
DIE.**

**YOU
TRYING TO
TELL ME I
SHOULD SIT
AROUND AND
WAIT FOR
YOU TO DIE?**

**I CAN'T
TRUST
ANY
FURGA-
CRATS
ON THE
JUDICIAL
BRANCH
ANY-
MORE.**

**CON-
GRAT-
ULATIONS
AND THE
MILITARY
ARE
GLADLY
ENTERING
UNDER
CON-
TROL.**



HIGH

**WHAT
CAN ONE
MEASLY LITTLE
SOLDIER LIKE
YOU DO?**

GONE ARE
MY YOUTHFUL
DAYS OF
AMBITION.



MY WIFE,
DROUGHT-
TILL...

...AND VARMA
CHANGED ME.

IF GIVING UP
INVITES DEATH,
THEN I'M READY
TO ACCEPT
THAT.

IT'S THE
FUNDAMEN-
TAL I
DESERVE



THAT'S THE
ONLY
WAY
TO
SURVIVE

POWER-
LESSNESS
DOESN'T
MEAN
DEATH.



BUT
...





I'D ALWAYS FELT
THAT ARYA HELD
SOMETHING
MORE THAN JUST
HATRED TOWARD
ME HIDDEN DEEP
IN HER HEART.



I HAD
INTENDED
TO
ACCEPT
MY
DEATH.

BUT I ALSO
THOUGHT THAT
IF SHE EVER
TRIED TO
CHANNEL HER
ANGER INTO
AN ATTACK ON
MY KINGDOM, I
WOULD STRIKE
HER DOWN WITH
MY OWN HAND....



FOLLOW
ME.



THIS RAILWAY IS A TOP SECRET ESCAPE ROUTE FROM THE CASTLE.

BUT IT SEEMS EVEN THAT WAS ALSO TRIVIAL.

IT'S OLD AND WAS BUILT BEFORE ARYA WAS BORN, SO SHE'S COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF IT.

...AND BUILT UP THE SECRET BEHIND ARYA FROM SAMGARA. SO YOU, IF ANYONE, SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO IT.

YOU MADE IT ALL THE WAY INTO THE HEART OF THIS KINGDOM BY YOURSELF...

EVEN IF YOU SEEK SHELTER WITHIN THE COUNTRY, YOU HAVE NO WAY OUT.
YOU SHOULD GET AWAY FROM HERE AND LEAVE THIS COUNTRY.



I WAS
ABLE TO DO
IT BECAUSE I
HAD VARMA.



I
WASN'T
BY MY-
SELF.



OF
COURSE
.....



...
SPEAK
WELL
OF
HIM.

AAAAAAAAA.....

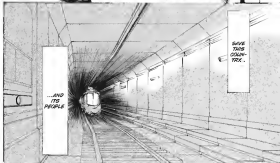


NOW
TAKE
THIS
AND GO
AS FAR
AWAY
AS YOU
CAN...

...
MY GOOD-
FOR-
NOTHING
ALLY OF
JUSTICE.



THE
ONLY
THING
THOSE
WITH NO
POWER
CAN DO
IS HOLD
ON TO
HOPE.



...AND
ITS
PEOPLE

Survive
this
collapse-
fritz .





WE
DON'T
WANT
INTEL ON
SAMBARA
LEAKED TO
ANOTHER
COUNTRY

YOUR
WISH
IS MY
COM-
MAND!

SO
LISTEN WELL!
DON'T LET BB
TAKE A SINGLE
STEP OUTSIDE
OF THIS
COUNTRY!

IF HE WAS
ABLE TO
DEFEAT AN
ASTHMA
PHYSICALLY
TEACHING
HER, THEN I
UNDERSTAND
HATED HIM.

I WAS NAIVE TO
ASSUME THAT
AS LONG AS HE
Held ON TO HIS
SILLY NO-KILL
CONVICTIONS, HE
WOULDN'T BE ABLE
TO BREAK THROUGH
SAMBARA'S
DEFENSES.

DAMN THAT
BUT I KNEW
HE'D PULL A
STUNT LIKE
THIS SOONER
OR LATER.



HUNT
WAS
THEIR
ONLY
PROBLEM

YOU
BROUGHT
BB IN HERE,
DIDN'T YOU?

IT WAS ONLY
BECAUSE
YOU WERE
THE ONLY
ONE WHO
COULD
DO THAT

KUJURI.



YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO PROMISED
US FREEDOM HERE
IN EXCHANGE FOR
"LENDING YOU OUR
POWER."

WER.



YOU'RE
ONE TO
TALK,
SISTER
ARXA...

YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO PROMISED
US FREEDOM HERE
IN EXCHANGE FOR
"LENDING YOU OUR
POWER."

AAAH...

あーん

IT
WOULDN'T
KILL YOU
TO TIDY UP
A LITTLE
IN HERE!

YOU
LIVE IN A
PROSTY!

CHERI!
CHERI!
CHERI!



SO,
THE
TRUTH
IS...

... I'M
THE ONE
WHO
PROPOSED
WE TRY TO
UNCOVER
THE
TRUTH
IS
SOMEONE.

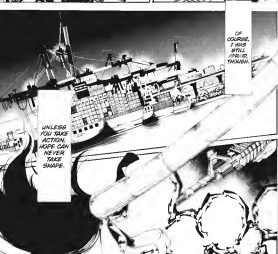
IT WAS
COMMON
KNOWLEDGE
THAT I
WAS HIS
MOTHER'S
LOVER.

THAT
BECAME A
SOURCE OF
STRENGTH
FOR ME.





I
CONVINCED
AND
HIGHLIGHTED
THAT THE
PRINCESS
WOULDN'T
EASILY
MAKE A
MOVE
AGAINST
ME.



UNLESS
YOU TAKE
ACTION,
HOPE CAN
NEVER
TAKE
SHAPE.

OF
COURSE,
I WAS
STILL
WRONG,
THOUGH.



BUT IN
ACTU-
ALITY,
THERE
ARE FEW
REAL-
LIVES
WHO CAN
MAKE
THEIR
DREAMS
A
REALITY



THERE
ARE PLENTY
OF THINGS
IN THIS
WORLD THAT
SIMPLY
WON'T
CHANGE,
NO MATTER
HOW
HARD YOU
STRUGGLE.



KUHE



AS A
RESULT ...
THE
WEAK
REMAIN
WEAK

HOW
DARE
YOU...
BETRAY
THE...
PRIN-
CESS

THAT'S
HOW WE
NEED
...

...
PEOPLE
TO
WHOM
WE CAN
EN-
TRUST
OUR
LIVES.

TRAI-
TORS...
DIE...!



ONE
WANTED
THE
GOOD
STUFF
AS
MATERIAL

ALL I
COULD
DO WAS
HOLD ON
TO HOPE
FOR HIS
REVENGE.



TOO
SLOW.



BUT I
WAS
ABLE
TO
HAND
THAT
OFF TO
SOME-
ONE
WHO
CAN
ACTU-
ALLY
MAKE
IT
COME
TRUE.

YOU'RE
STILL
GREEN.
TRAIN
HARDER.





BUT THE
OTHER
MEMBERS
MUST BE
STATIONED
AT THE
TOWER.

I KNEW
IT SO
SHE
DEPLOYED
THE MAIN
BOMBING
LAUNCH.



IF I CAN
JUST GO
RUNNING
INTO IT,
I CAN GET
AWAY FROM
HERE.



THAT
WAS
THE
ONE
THING
THAT
GAVE
MY
LIFE
MEAN-
ING.



THIS
IS THE
BOR-
DER.

DR,
YOU'RE
MY
HERO.



THERE'S
NO
ESCAPE,
DR.

W-
E-
A-
G-



AT THE
VERY
LEAST,
ALLOW
ME TO
ASSIST
YOU IN
COM-
MITTING
HARA-
KIRI.



I LAMENT
THAT I MUST
PUNISH
YOU AS A
CRIMINAL.

...AND
I'M NO
HERO.

VARMA,
I CAN'T
SAVE THE
KINGDOM
...

THE
LEAST
I CAN
DO...

...IS
HOLD ON
TO HOPE.







YOU
SHOULD
GET
AWAY
FROM
HERE.



I AM
YOUR
WIFE.

I WILL
STAY
WITH
YOU TO
THE
END.



MY
CRIMES
ARE MY
OWN.

IF YOU GO
BY YOURSELF,
ARYA MIGHT
LET IT SLIDE.

WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?





THE
REGENERATIVE
ABILITIES
OF A VOID MAKER
SHIELD ARE A
FRIGHTENING
THING.

BUT
THAT'S
NOT
TO SAY
YOU'RE
IMMORTAL.

SO
THAT'S
HOW
YOU
WERE
ABLE
TO
DEFEAT
AS-SARA.

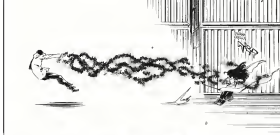
NOT EVEN
I WOULD
HAVE
ESCAPED
UNSCATHED
FROM AN
ENCOUNTER
WITH HER.



THE CE-
REBRUM IS THE
CONTROL
CENTER
OF THE
SPELL
CREST.

SO IF I
SIMPLY CRUSH
YOUR SKILL,
YOU'LL DIE.







SHE WAS
ABLE TO
DODGE IT
IN THAT
POSITION.



GET
FLATTENED
LIKE A
FROG.





AS LONG AS YOU KEEP AVOIDING PHYSICALLY USING VOID, YOU DON'T HAVE A CHANCE OF WINNING!

YOUR TARGET'S OFF, CAL.



**IT'S
TO GET
AWAY
FROM
YOU.**

**MY GOAL
ISN'T TO
BEAT YOU.**



**A WALL
MADE OF
VOID!!**

WHA...!?



BUT TO
EMPLOY
SUCH A
RIDICULOUS
AMOUNT OF
POWER...



AND
SUCH A
LARGE-
SCALE
MANIFES-
TATION
OF HIS
POWER!



...MY
BODY'S
NEARING
ITS
LIMITS



BUT I CAN'T
ERASE THAT
WALL YET



NOT
UNTIL I
REACH
THE
OCEAN.



CAPTAIN
AJITAP?

IT
WAS
THE
LAST
I
COULD
GET
THROUGH
NO
PROBLEM

YOU
SEEM
TO
HAVE
GOTTEN
THE
PRE-
DIC-
TAMENT
ON
YOUR
HANDS.
GEE.

I CAME AT
ONCE TO
HEAR THE
REPORT.

SO HE
SHOWED
UP AT
THIS
BAY.



IT'S
A PITY
THAT IT
WON'T
LEAVE
BEHIND A
CORPSE,
BUT I'LL
TAKE
CARE OF
HIM.



COULD
THIS
BE HIS
DOWNS
IF



WHY?

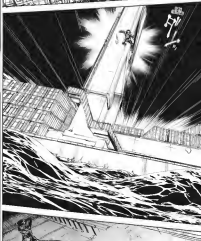
I'M NOT
SUSING
AS MANY
ENEMY
PRESENCES
AROUND
ME

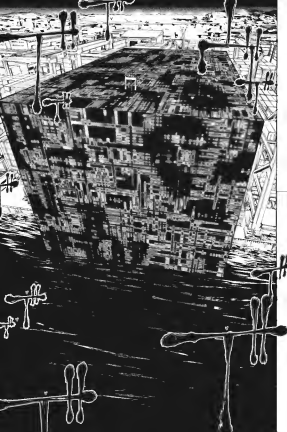


LADIES-
IN-
WAITING
UNIT,
STAND
DOWN!

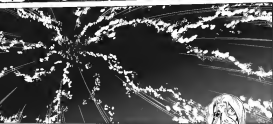




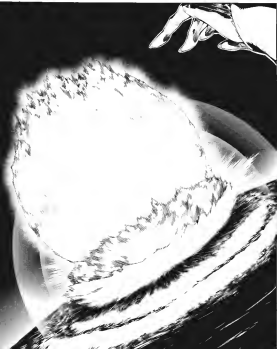
















FIND HIM.



UNDERSTOOD.

CONFIRMATION

CONFIRM
WHETHER
HE'S DEAD
OR NOT.

EVEN IF
THE SHIELD'S
BODY
INFORMED,
THE SPELL
CRAFT WILL
REMAIN.

THERE
CAN'T
POSSIBLY
BE ANY-
THING OF
HIM LEFT
AFTER
THAT...



UNDER-
STOOD.

YOU
CONTINUE
THE PREPA-
RATIONS
FOR THE
COUP D'ETAT.

IF WE
CAN'T
CONFIRM
HIS DEATH,
IT'LL BE A
PAIN, BUT
IT WILL
ONLY MEAN
REWORKING
THE PLAN
GOING FOR-
WARD.

YOU
ARE
READY
NOW.

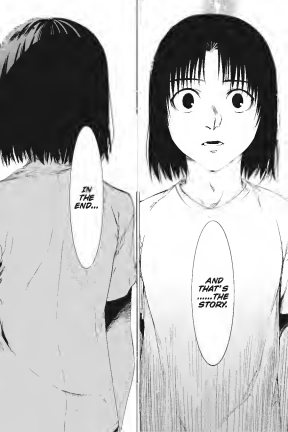
THERE
IS
NONE

HOW
ABOUT
THE
LINK TO
HIM?

H M D H.....







*IN
THE
END...*

*AND
THAT'S
.....THE
STORY.*



**...I WAS
NOTHING
MORE THAN A
PERSON ON
THE SIDE OF
THE WEAK.**



**BUT
I'VE
HELD
ON TO
HOPE
ALL
THIS
TIME.**

SEIGI...



**ACCEPT
THIS
FROM
ME...**

**...
SEIGI.**





I
DIDN'T
EVEN
SAVE
IT.



.....AT
FIRST, IT
WAS ONLY
FOR EASY.



I
CAN'T
...

IF YOU
COULDN'T
DO IT, THEN
THERE'S NO
WAY I CAN

I'M
HELPLESS.



IT'S
TOO MUCH
FOR ME TO
SHOULDER
ALONE.

BUT NOW
IT'S FOR
KIJURI AND
VARMA TOO.

AND
EVEN
THAT OLD
GEEZER.
I'VE
TAKEN
THIS
ON FOR
THEM.



**WHY
WOULD YOU
GO TO SUCH
LENGTHS?
IT DOESN'T
MAKE ANY
SENSE!**

**YOU GOT
SWAL-
LOWED
UP BY
ME AND
DIED!**



**YOU'RE
HEAD
AL-
READY**

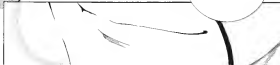


IF YOU'LL
HELP
ME, I'LL
GIVE YOU
ALL THE
KNOW-
LEDGE AND
STRENGTH
I HAVE.

TO-
GETHER
WITH
YOU.

THEN
I'LL BE
ABLE TO
FIGHT
AGAIN.







TAB TATH

T
A
B
O
T
A
T
O

I SEE.

SO THE PRINCESS HERSELF IS A HUB AND IS ONLY USING THE POWERS OF OTHER SHIELDS THROUGH THE LINKS SHE CONNECTED TO THEM.

NO WONDER SHE WAS SO UNPREDICTABLE.

...IT'S ALL HER SISTERS' POWERS.

IN OTHER WORDS...

THE POINT IS THAT EVEN IF THE SHIELDS THAT ARE THE ROOT OF HER POWERS AREN'T ACTIVE...

SO LONG AS THE PRINCESS ACTIVATES HER SPELL CREST, SHE CAN BORROW AND USE THEIR POWERS.

THAT'S BECAUSE THEY CAN'T LEAVE GANGLA.



AND THE
TRIGGER FOR
HER KEYLESS
SPELL CREST
IS "AIRL."



UNFORTU-
NATELY,
IT'D BE NO
EXAGGERATION
TO SAY SHE'S
INVINCIBLE.

SHE CAN
USE WHAT-
EVER POWER
SHE WANTS,
WHenever
SHE WANTS,
AT HOWEVER
GREAT A
RANGE SHE
WANTS.

AND SHE
HAS AN
INFINITE
AMOUNT OF
SWORDS
TO
USE AS
BATTER-
IES.

SHE
REALLY
IS THE
STRON-
GEST
SHIELD.







HAAM.

IF WE'RE
LOOKING TO
KEEP THIS
UNDER WRAPS,
IT'D PROBABLY
BE BEST IF
HE STUCK
WITH US.



SHOULD
WE TELL
THE HIGHER-UPS
THAT SEISH
WENT
MISSING?



FIRST,
WE NEED
YOUR PER-
MISSION.



...I WANT
YOU TO LEAVE
THE ARMY AND
ACCOMPANY
US.



IT'D
PROBABLY
BE GOOD FOR
SEISH-KUN
TO HAVE HIS
CLOSEST
FRIEND
AROUND.



IF IT'S
WHAT BRAD
WANTS,
I'LL COME
ALONG.

I'M SORRY,
FATHER...

.....
FINE.



YOU CAN
NO LONGER
GO HOME,
BECAUSE
IT'S UNDER
ARMY SUR-
VEILLANCE.

THE
SAME
GOES
FOR
SCHOOL,
OF
COURSE.

YOU'LL
HAVE TO
CUT TIES
WITH ALL
YOUR
FRIENDS,
EVERYONE
YOU KNOW,
AND ALL
YOUR
RELATIVES.

ARE YOU
REALLY
PREPARED
TO DO ALL
THAT?



BUT, BRAD,
YOU
UNDER-
STAND,
DON'T YOU?

THIS
DECISION
MEANS LEAVING
BEHIND YOUR
REGULAR LIFE.



AND
I DON'T
WANT TO
GET ANY-
ONE ELSE
MIXED UP
IN THIS.

EITHER
WAY, THE
PRINCESS
PROBABLY
WON'T BE
LEAVING ME
ALONE.



I'M SO
HAPPY
AND
MOVED!

YOU TWO
HAVE MADE A
WISE DECISION.
YOU HAVE MY
GRATITUDE.

T H A N K S !

HHNN.

MY
PATRONS
WITH THE
MINISTRY
OF DEFENSE
WILL LOOK
AFTER YOU.

YOU
HAVE
NOTHING
TO
WORRY
ABOUT.



I
DON'T
GARE.

I
LOST MY
EVERY-
DAY LIFE
THE
MOMENT
TOUKO
DIED.

THIS
IS THE
ONLY
PLACE I
BELONG
NOW.



IF WE HAND
THE SANSARA FILMS
THAT BE RISKED HIS
LIFE TO GET OVER
TO THE U.S. ARMY,
THEY'LL ONLY BE
USED TO ADVANCE
THEIR MILITARY
RULE OF THE
WORLD.

I THINK
JAPAN IS WISE
TO GIVE ME A
PLACE TO USE
MY INTELLECT
AND BOY'S
DATA FOR THE
PURPOSE OF
STOPPING THE
PRINCESS.



JAPAN'S
GOT A LOT
OF NERVE
SHELTERING
WANTED
CRIMINALS
FROM
THE U.S.
ARMY AND
DEVELOPING
WEAPONS.





BECAUSE
UNLIKE WITH
JAPAN'S
FOURTH
RULING SITE,
WE CAN'T
TAKE
OUR TIME
OCCUPYING
THE AREA.

THE U.S.
ARMY'S
LIKELY
LIFTING
THEIR
DEFENSES
AROUND
THE THIRD
RULING
SITE AS
WELL.

WHEN
ALL THE
PREPARATIONS
ARE IN PLACE.

WHEN
SHALL
WE SEIZE
THE
AMERICAN
RULING?

THOUGH
IT'LL
PROBABLY
TAKE A
WHOLE
YEAR
ANYWAY

BASED ON
THE DATA WE GET
FROM THAT, I'LL
ADJUST THE SOULS
AND BODIES OF ME
AND MY SISTERS
TO QUICKLY
ASSIMILATE
WITH THE
RUNES.

WE'LL
TRY
CRACKING
THE
SAMPLES
IN
BROUGHT
BACK.

SOON
ENOUGH

THAT
.....

MY BOOST
FUNCTION
IS STILL
SAFE, BUT
I CAN
BARELY
USE MY
ABSOLUTE
BORDER
ABILITY...

IT
SEEMS
THE
SPELL
CREST
CIRCUIT'S
BEEN
DAMAGED
...

SO,
HOW IS
YOUR
SPELL
CREST
DOING?

SOME-
BODY
MUST
HAVE
APPENDED
A CODE.

NOT
EVEN
I CAN
DO
THAT
...

I SEE.
SO IT'S
JUST
AS I
FEARED
...

THE
VOID
MAKER
DON'T
ALWAYS
HAVE
THAT
POWER.

WHEN BB GOT
THE BETTER OF
US, I WAS ONLY
CONNECTED WITH
A FRAIL ARM, BUT
I STILL GOT
FEEDBACK.

I BELIEVE
THAT EVEN
WITHOUT YOUR
ABSOLUTE
BORDER,
YOU'RE STILL
DRAHMAN'S
STRONGEST
WHEN IT COMES
TO CLOSE
COMBAT.

YOU SHOULD
KEEP UP THE
WORK
HELPING
US
COME.

IT
WAS NO
FAULT
OF YOUR
OWN.

I'M
TERRIBLY
SORRY,
I SIMPLY
COULDN'T
DISPOSE
OF HIM...

ORDER-
ESTABLISHING
THEIR WILL
ONLY TAKE
US UP

CLOSE
HAIL, IT
APPEARS
HE
TACKLED
UP A
CONSIDERABLE
AMOUNT
OF HIS
THROW.

HMPH.
HE'S
NOTHING
MORE
THAN A
SLIGHT
OBSTACLE.

HE'S
NO
PROBLEM.

IF
ONLY
THAT
WAS
TRUE.

WHAT'S
THIS?
YOU WERE
BEATEN
BY HIM
AGAIN?

YOU
ARE
TOO
POOR
TO
BE

YOU'RE
THE ELDEST
HERE. YOU
NEED TO DO A
BETTER JOB
MANAGING THE
YOUNGER
ONES.

I'VE
BEEN
RECEIVING
COM-
PLAINTS
FROM MY
LADIES-
IN-
WAITING AGAIN.

THEN
YOU
FAILED
TO GET
THE
KEY.

NO MATTER
HOW OPTIM
THEY TIDY UP,
IT'S ALL IN
DISARRAY THE
VERY NEXT
DAY.

IF
YOU'RE
THE
LAST
PERSON
I NEED
TO
KEEP
THIS
PLACE

NOW,
NOW.



THIS IS
HARD
FOR ME
TO SAY,
BUT...



...WHAT
WOULD
YOU DO?

IT
SEEMS
TO BE
TRICKY
BEING
ANYONE
SAY.

... IF I WERE
TO TELL YOU I
WAS LEAVING
THE ARMY...





萌

SWOOOOOOOH

おん
ん
ん

HEH.
I'LL
COME
WITH
YOU.

EVEN IF
YOU LEAVE
THE ARMY,
YOU'LL
ALWAYS BE
MY BR—

MY
SUPERIOR
OFFICER.



YOUR
TONGUE
HUNT?

YOU'VE
BEEN
WIPED
LATELY

NO! HOW CAN
YOU EVEN SUGGEST
THAT? PLEASE, FIRST
LIEUTENANT, I KNOW
WHEN TO HOLD MY
TONGUE!

WERE
YOU JUST
ABOUT
TO SAY
SOMETHING
STRANGE?

SOME-
THING
WENT
WRONG





NO WAY.

HE'S THE KINDA GUY WHO'D TRY TO HEADBUTT A WALL. NOT A CHANCE.

DID HE AND ICHINOSE BLOKE... OR SOMETHING?



TRUE...

I DON'T KNOW, DAMN IT!

EASY-GAN ALSO SUDDENLY TRANSFERRED IN THE MIDDLE OF SUMMER BREAK, SO I WONDER IF THAT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT...



WHAT HAPPENED TO SAIGO?

I'M
SORRY

BUT I
SWEAR I'LL
COME BACK
SOME DAY
SO JUST
WAIT.

HEY,
SEIGN
WHERE
THE
HELL
ARE
YOU?

ACTUALLY,
I MAY NEVER
COME BACK.

I'M GOING TO FINISH WHAT BB COULDN'T.

AND AS
FOR
THAT
PRIN-
CESS...

AN OVER-
WHELMING
POWER!

BUT IT'S
STILL NOT
ENOUGH.
I NEED
SOMETHING
GREATER...

BB'S
POWER IS
ALREADY
MINE.

AND
FOR
THAT, I
NEED
POWER.



...I'M
GONNA KILL
HER.



TAB TATH

T
A
B
O
T
A
T
O

HAVE YOU EVER
MADE PHYSICAL
CONTACT WITH
THE PRINCESS?

TELL ME,
SEAR.

MAYBE
THAT'S
WHAT HE
MEANT.

NOW
THAT YOU
MENTION
IT, SE
DID SAY
SOME-
THING
ABOUT A
LINK...

.....
YEAH

P H Y S I C A L L Y

IN ANY CASE,
THE PRINCESS
CAN ROUGHLY
ESTIMATE THE
LOCATION OF
ANYONE SHE'S
LINKED TO.

AND
IF THE
LINKED
PERSON
IS IN
TEN-000
KILO-
METERS,
SHE CAN
TELE-
PORT
THREE
USING
HER
SPELL
CAST.

THE
PRINCESS
AND HER
SISTERS WERE
BORN WITH
A STRONG
SPIRITUAL
LINK TO ONE
ANOTHER.

BUT
THEY ALSO
HAVE THE
ABILITY
TO LINK
TO OTHER
SHIELDS
AS WELL.

AH,
JUST FOR
CLARITY'S
SAKE, IT
SEEMS
THEY CALL
IT A
FRALINK.

SO
CREEPY

USE A STEALERS
WATCHING YOUR
EVERY MOVE
ON AN ISLE.

#33 CONTRADICTION
TARBOTATTON



THIS DOES NOT THREATEN ME.

THE
SAMSARA
FILES

EITHER WAY, IT'S EVIDENT THAT SEIGI-KUN IS A CENTRAL FIGURE IN ALL THIS.



ACCORDING TO THE SAMSARA FILES, SHE COULD ONLY LINK TO FEMALE SHIELDS UNTIL NOW.

I WONDER IF SHE CHANGED HER MIND.



FIRST, I'M GOING TO HAVE YOU INSERT NANO-MACHINES TO ACT AS JARIMERS TO YOUR LINK...

THEN WE'LL PREPARE A HIDEOUT FOR YOU.

WE HAVE TO KEEP YOUR LOCATION HIDDEN FROM THE PRINCESS.

WE CAN'T HAVE HER FINDING THIS PLACE ON ACCOUNT OF YOU.

ANYWAY.



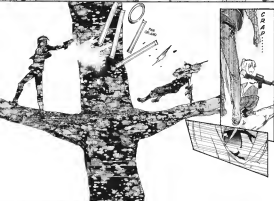
THIS IS OUR ONLY RESEARCH FACILITY, SO I CAN'T COME WITH YOU, BUT...

...I'LL HAVE A SELF-DEFENSE FORCE OFFICIAL ACCOMPANY YOU IN MY PLACE.



ONE
FEAR
LAYER











PAINTBALL

IN A
HIDE...

I NEVER
EXPECTED
YOU TO SO
THOROUGHLY
WHIP OUR
BUTTS IN
A THREE
VS. ONE.

YOU
THOUGH-
ED US.

YOU'RE
NOTHING
LIKE
WHEN WE
FIRST
MET.

FORGET
YOURSELF

IT WAS
OVER
BEFORE
I COULD
EVEN DO
ANYTHING



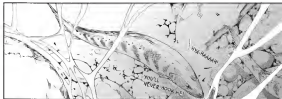
BUT
HOW IS
IT YOU'RE
CAPABLE
OF SUCH
MOVES?

YOU
BULLY
HAVE
GOTTEN
STRON-
GER.

I ALSO
BECAME A
SHIELD AFTER
BEING GIVEN
A SPELL
CREST FROM
DR. WISEMAN,
SO WE HAVE
A SIMILAR
HISTORY AS
SHIELDS.

MAJOR SOUMA TARIKO







HAVE YOU
FINALLY
GOTTEN
USED
TO IT?

IN THAT
SIMULATION
EARLIER,
YOU WERE
MOVING SO
FLUIDLY, I
THOUGHT IT
WAS A REAL
ARM.



THERE'S
ALSO
THE FACT
THAT IT'S
A GOOD
PROSTHESIS
TO BEGIN
WITH.

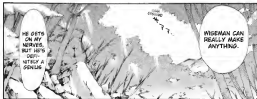
LIKE
YOU, I
ADAPTED
IT INTO
MY BODY.



HEY HE
GAVE US
A GUY!

WHERE'S
YOUR
PROSTHESIS?

TOM IS
DOING
MAINTENANCE
ON IT.



HE GETS
ON MY
NERVES,
BUT HE'S
DEFINITELY
A GENIUS.

WISGEMAN CAN
REALLY MAKE
ANYTHING.



...DO
YOU
MEAN
?

WHAT



.....
WHAT
DO YOU
THINK
ABOUT
HIM,
SEIG?



BUT THE PRINCESS'S SCHEME IS INCONVENIENT FOR WISEMAN TOO.

TEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.

HE SAID THAT TOO.

OH, THAT!

HAVING COMMON INTERESTS MAKES US FRIENDS, I GUESS.



I'M GOING ALONG WITH HIS PLAN FOR NOW, BUT...

...HE TRIED TO SELL THE STEEL CRESTS FROM THE U.S. ARMY TO THE KINGDOM FOR HIS OWN GAIN, YOU KNOW?

I CAN'T TRUST HIM COMPLETELY.



NO, IT'D PROBABLY BE MORE ACCURATE TO CALL HIM A MAD SCIENTIST.

WISE-MAN IS A SCIENTIST THROUGH AND THROUGH.

YES—A TOOL IN HIS "SEARCH FOR TRUTH."

DEEP DOWN, HE PROBABLY SAW ME AS JUST A TOOL TO MAKE HIS DREAMS COME TRUE.

HE HAS NO INTEREST IN RICHES, FAME, OR POWER.

SOME-
DAY,
HE'LL
BETRAY
US.

THERE'S
NO WAY HE'D
APPROVE OF
BIS AND HIS
DESIRE TO WIPE
THEM OUT.

TO
WISMAN,
THE
SPELL
CIRTS
ARE
SUITABLE
SPEC-
IMOND.

EASY,
DO YOU
TRUST
BIS?

SLIPS,
I DO...

I'LL
FIGURE
SOME-
THING
OUT
IN THE
END.

DON'T
WORRY.

IT'S
OK,
YOU'RE
SAFE.

THIS
WON'T
DO!
WON'T
DO AT
ALL!

I AL-
READY
KNOW
THAT.

WANT

6. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100.











THEY'RE
AIRING
MAGIC
LITTLE
PRINCESS
SERIA-
SAN'S
LATEST
EPISODE
TODAY.



I
KNOW.



HEY,
TOM.



EXACTLY.

HONESTLY,
THE
INTERNET
IS SUCH A
BLESSING!
EVEN OUT
HERE IN THE
MIDDLE OF
NOWHERE, WE
CAN ENJOY
OUR ANIME.











THE REASON
WHY THE
PRINCESS
LEFT BO'S
ACTIVITIES
UNCHECKED
IN JAPAN...

...WAS TO
MAKE ME
FIGHT AND
USE MY
POWER SO I
COULD BECOME
THE PERFECT
KEY.

THEN
SHE KILLED
TOUND SO I'D
FACE
HER
MYSELF.



THEY
PROBABLY
WILL.

TO
SEE
HOW
THE
KEY'S
GROW-
ING.



SHE
CHOSE THIS
ROUND-
ABOUT
PROCESS
FOR HER OWN
AMUSEMENT.

SHE
FIGURES
SHE'LL
COLLECT THE
KEYLESS
SPELL CREST
FROM ME AND
FIND SOMEONE
AMONG HER
PUPPETS WHO'S
COMPATIBLE
WITH IT.

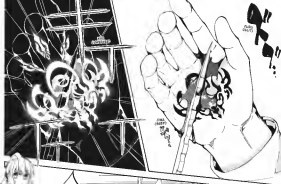
YOU
WERE JUST
SAYING!?

AN
ENEMY
IS
HIDE!

I
WANT
FOR
GIVE
ME

THE
END

THE
END











WHEN...
DID HE





I'M
DOING
SOMETHING
CRAZY-
ING.

HE
WAS
THE
ALSO
PART
OF
YOUR
CALCULA-
TION?

I'M
SURE
WHAT
I SAW
JUST
NOW
HASN'T
THE
SENSE
YOU
BE-
LIEVED
IN.

— TO BE CONTINUED —
TRANSLATION

GAAAAAHH!



NOOOO!!



TAB TATH

T
A
B
O
T
A
T
O







WHAT
ARE
YOU
TWO
LOOK-
ING
AT?

LET'S
TEST
IT.

WHEN
TESTING
GOLD...



HAH...?
GOLD?

THIS SPECIMEN
WAS PROBABLY
THE TYPE THAT
GOES AGAINST
THE GRAIN.

NO, IT'S
AGAINST
THE LAW
TO CARRY
AROUND A
SWORD IN
JAPAN.

BUT
PRINCESS,
DO ALL
JAPANESE
SCHOOL-
GIRLS
CARRY
SWORDS?



WHAT
ELSE?
YOUR
PHOTO
ALBUM.



IL! YOU
KEEP
QUIET!

I
STAYED
IN
THE
FOOT
OF
THE
MOUNTAIN
H.E.

WHAT
BELONGS
TO
THE
SECOND-IN-
COMMAND
BELONGS
TO
THE
PRINCESS.

WH-WH-
WH-WH-
WHERE
ON
EARTH
DID YOU
GET A
HOLD OF
THAT?!

PLEASE
DON'T GO
ROOTING
THROUGH
PEOPLE'S
PASTS!

BOR-
ROWED?
WITH-
OUT MY
PERMIS-
SION...?

I BOR-
ROWED
IT FROM
YOUR
PAR-
ENTS' HOME.

THAT'S
GROSS!



THOSE WHO
AVOID THE
MISTAKES OF
THE PAST
HAVE NO
RIGHT TO
ASK FOR A
FUTURE!

AM I
WRONG
??



WELL
.....
BUT
THIS
IS...

.....WHAT
YOU SAY
IS TRUE,
BUT...



C
A
L
I

FACING
YOUR PAST
AND OVER-
COMING IT
IS WHAT
MAKES A
SOLDIER!

TRYING
TO BREAK
AWAY FROM
THE PAST IS
SOMETHING
WEAK PEOPLE
DO!

と!!
ん



THERE ARE NOTES ON THE PHOTOS.

"ON THE SECOND DAY OF KINDERGARTEN, SHE TOOK CONTROL OVER THE RED AND BLUE TEAMS, SO THE PRINCIPAL TOLD ME THEY COULDN'T ADMIT HER INTO THE SCHOOL. I LOOK FORWARD TO WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS.



NOW, CHEER UP.



OH.

Good Morning



"THE REASON THEY WERE BEING ANNOYED WAS... SO I HAD NO CHOICE."

"IN THE SUMMER OF HER SECOND YEAR IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, SHE WIPED OUT A LOCAL STREET GANG AND SENT THIRTY MEMBERS TO THE HOSPITAL, HALF OF THEM BEING ADMITTED FOR BROKEN BONES AND OTHER SERIOUS INJURIES.

"SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT THE KATANA GUY WAS MINDING IN HER WOODEN PRACTICE SWORD WAS DISCOVERED AND HANDED OVER TO THE POLICE. SHE HAS GAINED A REPUTATION.



"THE REASON THAT TEACHER IS NOT WORTHY OF HIS POST."

"ON MAY OF HER FIFTH GRADE YEAR, HER HOMEROOM TEACHER, WHO SEEMED TO HAVE A THING FOR YOUNG GIRLS, SEEMED SOME BETTERING, SO SHE THREATENED HIM UNTIL HE QUIT.

"ALSO, THE POLICE GOT INVOLVED AFTER IT WAS DISCOVERED SHE WAS HIDING A SHORT SWORD IN HER RECFORDED. SHE TRULY IS GROWING INTO THE IDEAL GRANDDAUGHTER.



"HOW, SECOND-IN-COMMAND? SUCH A LARGE AND A CRUEL."

"I MOST LIKELY WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE DISEASE YOU OFTEN SEE IN YOUTHS ABOUT THIS AGE INFECTING HER."

"SOMEONE MUST PURGE ALL THE FETH FROM THIS WORLD."

"WHEN SHE WAS RELEASED FROM JUVENILE TRAINING SCHOOL FOR OVER-18, SHE REENTERED."



"YOU MUST NEVER MISGIVE TO WIELD YOUR POWER WHEN YOU SHOW OTHERS YOUR WAY."

"THINK OF NATIONAL POWER AS THE BABY!"

"THERE WERE THE LESSONS HE DROPPED INTO ME FROM A YOUNG AGE..."

"THOUGH HE WAS AN ENEMY..."

"IT WAS MY GRANDFATHER WHO RAISED ME. A SWORD MASTER WHO WASN'T QUITE ALL THERE..."

"TO YOU WHO'VE COMED TO KNOW WHO YOU MUST FIGHT AGAIN FROM YOUR STUDENTS?"

"YOUR PRACTICE THE SWORDS OF THE SWORDSMAN IS A VERY INTERESTING JOB."

"YOU SURE LIVED A VIOLENT CHILDHOOD FOR SOMEONE WHO GROW UP IN JAPAN."

"DID YOUR PARENTS TAKE THESE PHOTOS, SECOND-IN-COMMAND?"

"ON A STALKER?"



"WELL, AT LEAST NOW YOU'VE FACED YOUR PAST."

"YES..."

"HOW NOT THIS OH."

"EVEN NOW, I DON'T THINK YOUR COME'S CHANGED ALL THAT MUCH FROM BACK THEN..."

"WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE YOU TEND TO TAKE THINGS A LITTLE TOO SERIOUSLY."

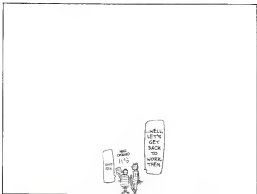
"AFTER HE DIED, I TOOK UP MY SWORD IN MY OWN PRIVATE STORIES, BUT AFTER GETTING INTO COLLEGE, I LEARNED A LOT AND HAD TO REEVALUATE MYSELF ON HOW THE WORLD WORKS."





TAB TATH





PUNISHMENT



CURLS





TABOO TATTOO

by SHINJIRO

Translation: Christine Buehler • Lettering: Phil Christie

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, incidents, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

TABOO TATTOO
© Shinjiro 2007

First published in Japan in 2007 by KADOKAWA CORPORATION. English translation rights reserved by Yen Press, LLC under the license from KADOKAWA CORPORATION, Tokyo through YOTTE!-MUSE AGENCY, Inc., Tokyo.

English translation © 2007 by Yen Press, LLC

Yen Press, LLC asserts the right to free expression and the value of copyrights. The purpose of copyright is to encourage writers and artists to produce the creative works that enrich our culture.

The scanning, uploading, and distribution of this book without permission is a theft of the author's intellectual property. If you would like permission to use material from the book (beyond that which our website permits), please contact the publisher. Thank you for your support of the author's rights.

Yen Press
3250 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10064

Visit us at yenpress.com
Feedback: info@yenpress.com
twitter.com/yenpress
facebook.com/yenpress
youtube.com/yenpress

First Yen Press Edition: April 2007

Yen Press is an imprint of Yen Press, LLC.
The Yen Press name and logo are trademarks of Yen Press, LLC.
The publisher is not responsible for websites (or their content) that are not owned by the publisher.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2008092500
ISBN: 978-0-309-30821-1 (paperback)
978-0-309-30822-8 (hardcover)

058 97 95 4321

Printed in the United States of America

